

The Western Grebe was observed in flocks of various sizes at all times of the night and early morning actively engaged in diving for the smaller fish in the areas flooded by the ships' lights. Dr. Philip Westling of Zillah, Washington, and the writer frequently fished in these light-flooded areas for the young king salmon or "blackmouths" common in Elliott Bay. This fishing was done at all hours of the night and early morning, using spinning tackle baited with a whole or diagonally "plugged" herring on a double "set-up" hook commonly employed in salmon sports fishing. On four different occasions while retrieving casts, Western Grebes were hooked. Our estimate of the depth in each instance was 15 to 20 feet. The hooked birds surfaced and tried to fly, but being securely hooked, they had to be brought in.

In each instance when the hooked bird surfaced, it cried out repeatedly and struggled violently to escape. The rest of the birds of this species in the area invariably crowded around the stricken bird as if to try to help it. All four of the birds were hooked securely in the side of the mouth. Some difficulty was encountered in dislodging the hooks because of the pugnacity of the birds and their repeated attempts to bite us. All birds were returned apparently unharmed to Elliott Bay. One grebe regurgitated two partially digested candlefish (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) while being unhooked.

The taking of the Western Grebe in the manner described at midnight, 2 a.m., 3:30 a.m., and 4:50 a.m. suggests that either this bird feeds at night to quite a degree or that the berthed ships in the Seattle waterfront area are providing a unique feeding opportunity of which a limited number of birds have taken advantage.

This bird adds another to the list of those taken on hook and line by the writer while sports fishing in the western United States. The others so taken include the Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), the California Gull (*Larus californicus*), and the Water Ouzel (*Cinclus mexicanus*). Both the Water Ouzel and the Nighthawk were taken on small dry flies on Diamond Fork Creek, Utah County, Utah.—S. LARRY CHATWIN, *Division of Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 25, 1955.*

**Pileated Woodpecker South of the Sierra Nevada in California.**—On September 12, 1952, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) was seen near the Breckenridge Mountain Camp Ground, 6500 feet, Kern County, California. The birds were present in the same area on the following day. Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:230) reported Pileated Woodpeckers from the Greenhorn Mountains just north of the Kern River Valley in the extreme southern Sierra Nevada. I am not aware of records south of this valley other than the one here reported.

The habitat appeared suitable for these birds in that it was an old forest composed of yellow pine, Douglas fir, sugar pine and large black oaks. On a short visit to this same area the following spring I was unable to locate these woodpeckers. They may not be resident in this locality.—WADE FOX, JR., *Louisiana State University, School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 31, 1955.*

**Galapagos Penguin in Panamá.**—Recently while in Panamá I learned that a penguin had been captured alive on the Pacific coast in February, 1955, and that the skin was in the Museo Nacional de Panamá. The director of that museum, Dr. Alejandro Méndez Pereira, kindly lent me the specimen to enable comparison with specimens in the American Museum of Natural History. The penguin is an immature Galapagos Penguin (*Spheniscus mendiculus*), hitherto recorded only from the Galapagos Islands. Identification was confirmed by Robert Cushman Murphy and Dean Amadon. In color the Panamá bird closely resembles three immature examples in the American Museum from the Rothschild Collection, taken on November 11, 1897, by R. H. Beck at Tagus Cove, Albemarle Island, Galapagos Archipelago. In any plumage *S. mendiculus* differs from its congeners by its small size and by relatively longer and more slender bill. The specimen measures: wing, 145 mm.; culmen, 58 mm.; bill from gape, 66 mm.; front of nostril to tip of bill, 30 mm.; vertical depth of bill at base, 18 mm.; foot (from heel to tip of claw of middle toe), 88 mm.

To Dr. Méndez Pereira I am indebted for the following information: The penguin was taken at Puerto Armuelles, province of Chiriquí, in the middle of February, 1955, by a swimmer, who reported that it was accompanied by a larger individual, which avoided capture. The bird was purchased by Sr. Guillermo Tribaldos of David, Chiriquí, who kept it there in a river in a large wire mesh cage

so placed that the current would bring fresh and living food through the wide mesh. The penguin survived for a month and a half.

There appears to be no prior record of a penguin taken in Middle America. Yet Mr. James Price of Panamá assures me that some years ago he was offered several unidentified penguins captured alive on the Pacific coast of Panamá. Hence this may not be an isolated incident.

According to Murphy (*Oceanic Birds of South America*, 1, 1936:466 ff.) the Galapagos Penguin is known only from the Galapagos Archipelago, particularly the central and westerly islands lying on or just below the Equator; it feeds in the cool waters of the Humboldt Current, which wash the shores of these islands. Murphy mentions (*loc. cit.*) that it has been "doubtfully reported from Wenman Island," which is isolated and lies at latitude  $1^{\circ} 20' N$ , to the northwest of the main Galapagos Archipelago. The Galapagos extend east to longitude  $89^{\circ} 16' W$ ; Puerto Armuelles lies at about longitude  $82^{\circ} 50' W$  and latitude  $8^{\circ} 15' N$ —some seven hundred miles to the northeast. Since the Humboldt Current in its course through the Galapagos flows toward the west, it is a matter of speculation how a non-migratory and non-volant penguin from these islands ranged so far to the northeast. However, a short distance north of the Galapagos Archipelago, another current, the Equatorial Countercurrent, flows toward the east, veering northward as it approaches the continent. In some years, during the early months, this countercurrent displaces, or partly displaces, the Humboldt Current about the Galapagos. It is possible that a penguin chancing to stray into the countercurrent might reach the coast of Panamá. Perhaps a stronger possibility is that fishermen or yachtsmen may have captured the bird and later allowed it to escape near Panamá waters.—EUGENE EISENMANN, *New York City, New York, September 29, 1955.*

**White-throated Sparrow in Humboldt County, California.**—On September 27, 1955, we observed a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) at close range in a thimbleberry and salal thicket at the west end of the Wildlife Building on the Humboldt State College Campus, Arcata, California. There are few records for this area, although the species has been recorded in Eureka in the months of November, March, and May and at Adams, Del Norte County, on November 4 (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:526).

This record is of significance because of the early date for the area.—CHARLES F. YOCOM and ROLF E. MALL, *Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, October 15, 1955.*

**Distributional Data on the Birds of the White Mountains of California and Nevada.**—The White Mountains are the largest and highest of the mountain ranges constituting the Great Basin mountain province of California. The breeding birds of the boreal areas of this province were tabulated in 1951 (Miller, *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 50, 1951:584–591) from a scattered literature and from the notebook records of field parties of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology which have operated in the White Mountains, chiefly in 1917. When this tabulation was prepared, certain doubts remained about the summer resident status of some species and as a consequence a field party visited the mountains under the leadership of Russell in May and June of 1954 in order to gain further information. In addition to Russell, Francis S. Williamson, Joseph G. Hall, A. Starker Leopold, Robert S. Hoffmann and Jerry Russell took part, the last three only in the last week of June. Parts of the range lying in Esmeralda County, Nevada, were visited, as well as those in Mono and Inyo counties, California. The following data supplement the previous records for this mountain system.

*Dendragapus fuliginosus sierrae*. Sooty Grouse. No specimens of this type of grouse from the White Mountains were extant previously, although the species was known to occur. In 1944 Grinnell and Miller (*Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27:115–116) tentatively included the population of these mountains in *D. f. howardi*. Russell took three males and one female in May, 1954, in Trail Canyon, 8900 feet, Esmeralda County, Nevada, and an adult female and downy young at 8200 feet on Wyman Creek, Inyo County, on June 6 and 7. The backs of the males as a group are intermediate in color and pattern between those of *sierrae* and *howardi* in the same way that grouse of the Yosemite district and the Sweetwater Mountains of northern Mono County are intermediate. The tails of adults are intermediate in length although closer to *sierrae* than to typical *howardi*: ♂ ♂, 173, 174, 183; ♀ ♀, 147,